

May 26, 2006

Y-M-C-A

We received some exciting news earlier this week when The Factory developer Jeff Ammons announced that the YMCA of the Triangle will open a 21,000 square foot facility in the retail and entertainment center located on South Main Street (US 1-A).

In addition to a first class wellness center, The Factory will house some of the YMCA's summer day camp and track out programming for year-round school students.

Preliminary plans call for the YMCA to begin construction this summer at The Factory and for an early 2007 opening.

Flaherty Tennis Courts Resurfacing Project

Our Parks and Recreation Department will resurface the four lighted tennis courts at Flaherty Park between May 29 and June 16. The project will entail removing weeds, sealing cracks, applying a coat of resurfacer and two coats of color concentrate, redrawing playing lines, and refurbishing net posts.

Susan Simpson, director of our Parks and Recreation Department, asks that residents avoid the courts during this period, so work can proceed according to schedule. The initiative is part of the on-going maintenance of the department's facilities.

A Message to Online Payment Service Customers

If you use your bank's online bill pay service to pay your monthly utility bill, be sure to use the following mailing address:

Town of Wake Forest

PO Box 900002

Raleigh, NC 27675-9000

Seatbelt Checkpoint Nets 151 Charges

The Wake Forest Police Department's Traffic Enforcement Unit conducted its first official roadside seatbelt checkpoint on May 16 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The checkpoint was set up in the eastbound lane of Front Street at Roosevelt Avenue.

Altogether, the checkpoint netted 151 charges, of which 117 were seatbelt violations. **To read the entire article click [HERE](#).**

Town Earns 16th Consecutive Financial Reporting Award

For the 16th consecutive year, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in

Financial Reporting to the Town for our comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by the Town and its management.

An Award of Financial Reporting Achievement was awarded to Aileen Staples, Town of Wake Forest Finance Director, whose staff was responsible for preparing the award-winning CAFR. **To read the entire article, click [HERE](#).**

Attention E-News Subscribers

Last week, I used this space to encourage you to sign up to receive the Town's E-Newsletter. This week, I want to follow up by encouraging those of you who have signed up for E-News but have not been getting it, to re-submit your email address. According to Communications Specialist Bill Crabtree, nearly 100 email addresses were rejected or not recognized following last month's E-News mailing. So, again, if you signed up to receive E-News, but haven't gotten it, then its because we experienced a problem with your email address.

On a side note, the May issue of E-News will be sent out during the first part of next week.

Town Hall Closed Monday

Town Hall will be closed Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day. Police, solid waste, and recycling services will not be affected. Town Hall will re-open Tuesday morning at 8 a.m.

On behalf of the Town of Wake Forest, I wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day weekend!

May 19, 2006

Roundabout Basics

For the past several months, workers have been constructing a roundabout or traffic circle at the intersection of South Main Street (US 1A) and Front Street (NC 98) – in front of the seminary. We have received a number of comments from citizens concerning the proper way to navigate the roundabout, which is understandable since this form of intersection is uncommon in our area.

A roundabout is a form of intersection design and control which accommodates traffic flow in one direction around a central island, operates with yield control at the entry points, and gives priority to vehicles within the roundabout.



Roundabouts have many benefits. They serve to increase safety, limit speed, encourage smooth traffic flow, and improve street appearance.

The most important thing to remember about roundabouts is that they are governed by the "yield-at-entry" rule that requires all vehicles entering the roundabout to yield to traffic circulating within the roundabout.

For motorists who have experienced problems while navigating the roundabout, I can't stress enough how critical the yield at entry rule is.

Here are a few other roundabout tips:

- Slow down as you approach the roundabout
- Vehicles, including bicycles, inside the roundabout, as well as pedestrians, always have the right of way
- Before entering the roundabout, look left. Proceed when there's an opening in traffic
- Don't stop inside the roundabout. When you're inside, you have the right of way.

The Town of Wake Forest wants all its citizens to become familiar with roundabouts. To that end, we developed a [brochure](#) that we are mailing to every town residence. If you have additional questions about roundabouts, [let us know](#).

As a heads-up, flaggers will be directing traffic in the area of the roundabout on Wednesday, May 31. Motorists in the vicinity of the roundabout construction are urged to proceed with caution and expect delays.

Swim Lesson Schedule Now Available

The 2006 [Swim Lesson schedule](#) is now available. For more information, contact [Edwards Austin](#), Athletic Coordinator at (919) 554-6183.

Register for E-News

[E-News](#) makes it easier than ever to know what's going on around Wake Forest. Visit the [homepage](#) of our website and sign up to receive our free E-Newsletter. Once you've registered, we will send E-News directly to your inbox each month. We'll also email you occasional E-Alerts designed to give you a heads-up on area road construction, planned power outages, important meetings, and all kinds of community activities and events. By signing up for E-News, you'll always be the first to know! For more information about E-News, contact [Bill Crabtree](#) at (919) 554-6196.

May 12, 2006

NCDOT Addressing Traffic Problems at US 1 / Galaxy Drive Intersection

Several residents have reported significant traffic delays along US 1 at the intersection of US 1 and Galaxy Drive. We spoke to NCDOT Project Manager Steve Joyner about the problem yesterday, and he attributed the congestion to a malfunctioning traffic signal. He assured us, however, that the issue has been resolved and traffic is now flowing smoothly.



Steve also reported an "unusual situation" at the intersection of Retail Drive and Galaxy Drive in front of Applebee's. I think you should know about. Vehicles in the northbound lane heading straight through the intersection (toward Target) are facing a left turn lane in the opposite direction. Vehicles in the right turn lane have what appears to be a straight through lane which gives the false impression that the right hand turn lane is the through lane. This temporary configuration is causing confusion among motorists but will be resolved by mid-June. Until then, Joyner says vehicles in the through lane must bear slightly to the right and proceed through the intersection, whereas motorists in the right turn lane must turn right.

Finally, Joyner says lane closures for paving should be finished this week.

Visit the [Road and Construction Projects](#) web page for the latest on the construction of the NC 98 bypass and other current construction projects in Wake Forest.

Town to Install Automated Electricity Meters

As part of Wake Forest's commitment to continuous service and reliability, the Town is installing new solid state electricity meters throughout its entire service territory. Installation of the new automatic meter reading technology will take place over four weeks beginning the first week in June.

The new electronic meters will help the Town become more productive by reducing meter-reading time, improving data-recording and increasing billing accuracy. The AMR system will also enable us to provide customers with current consumption information, detect interruptions, and allow the Town to more easily restore service during power outages.

Using the traditional collection method, meter readers went door-to-door to gather data, but often had trouble accessing property. The new system enables Wake Forest to collect and transmit data from all the Town's meters through existing power lines within a matter of minutes. The new

technology is more efficient, improves reporting accuracy, and significantly reduces the likelihood of errors.

Installation of the new meters is simple. As long as the Town has access to a customer's meter, no one has to be home during the installation. However, the Town will attempt to contact customers prior to the meter installation to make them aware of the change out. Power will be interrupted for a few minutes during the installation of the new meter.

For answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about AMR, click [HERE](#).

Holding Park Pool Set to Open May 27

[Holding Park Pool](#), located at 133 West Owen Avenue, is the Town's 50-meter swimming pool. The pool is open during the summer months and offers swimming to the general public, as well as water aerobics, swim lessons, lap swim times, and parent-child swim times.

Holding Park Pool will open for the season on Saturday, May 27. Open swim times are 1 - 6 pm, Monday – Friday and 1 - 7 pm, Saturday - Sunday.

The swim lesson schedule will be available May 20. Classes will be offered for preschoolers (3 - 5 year-olds) and beginners (ages 6 and above). Swimming lesson registration begins June 1 at Town Hall. The fee is \$25 for Wake Forest (in-town) residents and \$40 for non-residents.

For more information about programs offered at Holding Park Pool, click [HERE](#).

REMINDER! Public Hearing on Budget Set for May 16

[A public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16 to receive comment on the proposed 2006-2007 budget](#). To view the PowerPoint presentation I presented to the Board of Commissioners on the proposed 2006-07 budget, click [HERE](#).

Braxton Perry Celebrates 30 Years of Service with Wake Forest

I want to take a moment to recognize Braxton Perry, an accountant in our [Finance Department](#). On Monday, Braxton celebrated his 30th anniversary with the Town of Wake Forest.

To commemorate the occasion, Braxton's co-workers surprised him with a covered dish luncheon. After Finance Director Aileen Staples presented him with a card from the Finance Department and after everyone in attendance enjoyed a delicious meal, several co-workers shared stories about Braxton. Not only were most of the tales hilarious, but by the time the last story was told, everyone felt as though they knew Braxton a little better.



Braxton was hired originally to work in the Street Department, through the summer work program - Comprehensive Employment Training Act or CETA. Braxton says he cleaned storm drains, worked in the cemetery, patched streets, and helped other departments when necessary.

The stint was scheduled to come to an end on September 30, 1976, but in June one of the meter readers hurt his knee playing softball.

Braxton recalls that current Load Management Specialist Jim Skillman, came and asked him to go with him that month and help read meters.

"It worked out well because I was good with numbers and enjoyed walking the routes, except for an occasional bad dog," says Braxton.

On September 30, 1976, the day his tenure with the Town was supposed to end, Braxton says the Town asked him if he would like stay on in a permanent position. Fortunately for us, Braxton said yes.

For the next two years he worked in the Street Department and read meters one week each month until around September 1978 when he was promoted to a full-time meter reader.

Braxton says he was one of only two meter readers until around 1995.

"By then it was almost more than two people could do to read all the meters and keep the work orders up and test some meters," he says.

Although he enjoyed reading meters, Braxton says he started making plans to change careers.

"A few years back, in December of 1989 I had started taking night classes at Wake Tech for a degree in Accounting," he recalls. "I was beginning to think at some point in time I wanted to move into another field of work. I finished that degree in May of 1994 and graduated in August of that year."

As though it was destined, Braxton says around the same time he graduated, an opening in Accounts Payable became available.

"I applied for the job without any actual work experience," he said. "My supervisor at the time was Pat Brodbeck and she put in a good word for me with (Finance Director) Aileen (Staples). Aileen decided to give me a chance at the job, but for a while I could only do it part time because I still had to read meters until we could get someone and train them."

Braxton said he stopped reading meters in January 1995 and started the full-time accounting position on February 1, 1995.

"I didn't actually have a title at the time, but in that year's budget they called the position Accounting Tech I," he recalled. "I did accounts payable, fixed assets, and general accounting duties. In 2001 I was promoted to Accounting Tech II and in November 2003 I was promoted to Accountant which is my current position."

Braxton says he has enjoyed working for the Town of Wake Forest and that his fondest memory is earning his degree.

"I have many fond memories of my time with The Town of Wake Forest and have been blessed to work with and for some really good people, but probably my fondest memory is earning a degree and changing my career path," he says. "I really like the accounting field and it never gets old to me."

It's been my pleasure to know Braxton for many years, and I can tell you he is very good at what he does. It goes without saying that the citizens of Wake Forest are very lucky to have him working for the Town.

May 5, 2006

It's been a couple of weeks since I added an entry to what is normally a weekly blog. As a result, I have a lot of ground to cover, beginning with last night's decision by the Raleigh City Council to lift the mandatory water restrictions that have been in place since November.

Raleigh Ends Mandatory Water Restrictions

In a unanimous vote, [the Raleigh City Council switched to voluntary water restrictions](#), which will lift restrictions on when city water customers can water their lawns and where they can wash

their vehicles. The vote means no longer are there limits on lawn watering or bans on people washing their cars at home or pressure washing their decks. A [Raleigh city ordinance urging voluntary water conservation](#) recommends residents limit irrigation to three times a week, limit car washing and use a broom instead of a hose to clean off sidewalks, decks or driveways. As a result of Raleigh's decision, the Town of Wake Forest will observe the voluntary water restrictions as well.

For more information, read [today's News & Observer](#) and visit the [WRAL TV5 website](#).

NC 98 Bypass - Tentative Opening Schedule

The NCDOT has provided the following tentative schedule for the opening of the new NC 98 Bypass at US 1:

May 8, 2006 - The contractor plans to close Retail and Galaxy Drive and complete the ramps on the north side of the interchange.

June 8, 2006 - The contractor plans to open the new NC 98 to traffic. Additional work on US 1 must be completed after the road is opened.

July 7, 2006 - Completion Date

Residents are urged to remember that the schedule is tentative and may be affected by inclement weather and other unforeseen factors.

Visit the [Road and Construction Projects](#) web page for the latest on the projected opening of the NC 98 bypass. The page is updated regularly and, as its name implies, offers current information on road and construction projects in Wake Forest. Be sure to bookmark it and check it often.

Holding Park Pool Set to Open May 27

[Holding Park Pool](#), located at 133 West Owen Avenue, is the Town's 50-meter outdoor swimming pool. Open during the summer months, the pool offers swimming to the general public, as well as water aerobics classes, swim lessons, lap swim times, and parent-child swim times. Holding Park Pool will open for the season Saturday, May 27. Open swim times are 1 - 6 pm, Monday – Friday and 1 - 7 pm, Saturday - Sunday. **Open swim passes are now available. The swim lesson schedule will be available May 20 and swim lesson registration begins June 1.**

For more information, contact [Edward Austin](#) at (919) 554-6183.

Public Hearing on Budget Set for May 16

I presented the proposed FY 2006-2007 budget to the [Board of Commissioners](#) for consideration last night during the board's regular monthly work session. For the next two weeks, a copy of the

proposed budget will be available in the Town Clerk's office for the public to view. A public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16 to receive comment, so we welcome your feedback. Final approval will take place at the June 20 meeting.

If you have any questions or would like a copy of the budget, contact [Aileen Staples](#) at (919) 554-6105. To view last night's PowerPoint presentation, which provides a good overview of this year's proposed budget, click [HERE](#).

Enhancement Project Focuses on Front Street & Stadium Drive

Work crews will begin removing and transplanting several trees along Front Street and Stadium Drive within the next few weeks to accommodate new sidewalk construction. The project is being funded through a North Carolina Department of Transportation Enhancement Program (TEA-21) grant designed to improve the cultural, aesthetic and environmental aspects of North Carolina's transportation system. The affected sections of sidewalk are part of the town's long-range plan for sidewalk construction.

To view the entire article, click [HERE](#).

Downtown Development Underway

The [Renaissance Plan for the Heart of Wake Forest](#) envisioned the construction and development of new buildings that would blend in with existing buildings in downtown Wake Forest.

Demolition underway at the intersection of White Street and Roosevelt Avenue signifies that the Renaissance Plan is being implemented. The razed buildings most recently housed "Hair and There" beauty salon and "Red Sun Academy." The demolition work is making room for a new CVS Pharmacy designed to complement historic downtown Wake Forest. Be sure to watch for ongoing redevelopment at the site.

And be on the look out for the yellow "work" sign to the right. When you see it in a work area, you'll know the construction going on is another part of the execution of the Renaissance Plan.



Republic "Apologizes" to Wake Forest Officials

In recent months many Wake Forest residents have experienced repeated problems with Republic Waste Services, the Town's contracted trash collection service provider. According to [Public Works](#) Director [Mike Barton](#), the main issue for most customers has been missed pick-ups on scheduled collection days. In response, Rick Hazelwood, Republic Waste Services General

Manager, sent a letter dated April 13 to Wake Forest officials wherein he accepted full responsibility for the problems and assured them that missed pick-ups are a thing of the past. According to Hazelwood, considerable turnover among Republic's route drivers has caused the company to send inexperienced drivers out to navigate the town's collection route. In his letter, Hazelwood wrote that he is confident the personnel problems have been resolved, and he assured officials that Wake Forest residents would receive the highest customer service. He also outlined a number of changes Republic plans to adopt to improve service delivery, including implementing a new system for tracking missed collections.

Additionally, Hazelwood appeared before the [Board of Commissioners](#) at their April 18 meeting to reassure them that the trash collection issues have been resolved.

If you experience any problems with your waste collection service, contact [Betty Pearce](#) at (919) 554-6120.